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A CAREER OF CRIME.

Incidents in the Life of the Great Outlaw, Jesse James.

The death of Jesse James will pretty effectually break up the daring band of outlaws which he has led. Only his brother Frank and Jim Cummings remain at large. In the career of the James boys they have been at the head of many bandits. Most of these are now dead or in prison. At Independence, Missouri, Dick Little and others of the band who participated in the Glendale, Winston and Blue Cut train robberies, are locked up. Little has confessed and is helping the officers, and now only Frank James and Jim Cummings remain to be captured. The James boys—and more audacious and cruel villains never lived—were raised in Clay county, Missouri. Frank was born in 1841 and Jesse in 1845. Their father was a Baptist minister, who was driven from home by his wife and went to California, where he died in 1851. Mrs. James subsequently married Dr. Reuben Samuels, a respectable citizen. She is still alive and proud of her outlaw boys. She lives on a farm, near Kearney, seventeen miles northeast of Kansas City. It was here and about Kearney that Frank and Jesse James led uneventful lives until the breaking out of the 1861-1865 war. The atrocities produced by the war in Missouri, made outlaws of the James boys. Frank James joined Quantrell's guerrillas when he was 20 years old. He soon became noted for his daring and murderous ferocity. Jesse, only 14 years old, sought service at the same time, but was rejected as too young. His stepfather, Dr. Samuels, was a secessionist and in 1862 a body of Federals raided his house and swung him up. His wife cut him down in time to save his life. Jesse was threatened with hanging, but his youth saved him, although he was cuffed and abused.

JESSE JOINS THE BAND.

This so enraged Jesse that he again sought Quantrell's band and implored to be admitted. He was accepted, his brother Frank interceding for him. Thus the lad of 15 began a life of murder and crime, a career of daring and desperate deeds that has no parallel in history. Frank had already attained eminence in Quantrell's gang of murderers and cut-throats, and Jesse, emulating his example, soon eclipsed him and became the leader in all expeditions where nerve, daring bravery and a reckless disregard for his own or other lives were required. In Quantrell's command the James boys found congenial spirits in Cole and Jim Younger, Jarrett, Clell Miller, George Shepherd and others who have been partners in their robberies since the war. Both were in Quantrell's band of 200 when Lawrence, Kansas, was sacked, burned and nearly every male inhabitant ruthlessly murdered. Jesse James boasted at the time to have shot down thirty-six. The Younger brothers, who were his boon companions, were raised in Jackson county, Missouri, within four miles of Independence. Probably no horror of equal enormity or atrocity was ever perpetrated than the massacre at Centralia, Mo., a way station on the Wabash Railroad, in Boone county. Here, on September 27, 1864, Bill Anderson, assisted by Jesse and Frank James, killed thirty-two invalid soldiers in cold blood. They first raided the village and sacked the stores. Then, waiting for the east-bound train, they stopped it and robbed the passengers of their money. Among the passengers were thirty-two sick soldiers en route from St. Joseph to St. Louis for better hospital accommodations. These poor wretches were marched out and aligned by Frank and Jesse James, and Bill Anderson, with his own hands, shot and killed every man of them, a pistol being handed him by either Frank or Jesse as fast as he emptied the one in his hand. Scarce had the diabolical massacre been finished before a company of Iowa volunteers appeared in the distance, and they, too, became victims to the unerring aim of these bandits. Thus within two hours eighty slain were piled about the village. Such scenes as these hardened the James boys and made their latter-day crimes merely trivial in comparison.

MORE DARING DEEDS.

When the war ended Missouri became too hot to hold the guerrillas. Jesse James accompanied George Shepherd to Texas, while Frank followed the fortunes of Quantrell into Kentucky. For three years the James boys sank from public gaze. In the spring of 1868 Jesse James, accompanied by Cole Younger, Al Shepherd, George Shepherd and Jim White, dashed into Russellville, Ky., and robbed the bank of \$14,000. Their first robbery in Missouri took place in Gallatin, where not only did they rob the bank, but deliberately shot and killed Captain Sheets, the cashier, after they had collected all the money. For two years the James boys hung around the Rio Grande frontier in Mexico. In 1870 they returned. Corydon, Iowa, a prosperous village near the Missouri line, was invaded and the bank relieved of \$40,000. Then the boys kept quiet for two years more, when they suddenly appeared with Cole, Jim and John Younger at Columbia, Ky., robbed the bank and shot down the cashier. In the fall of that year the boys rode up to the box office of the County Agricultural Fair, held at Kansas City. Jesse James thrust a

revolver through the window and demanded the money. The box, containing \$10,000, was handed out, and the outlaws dashed away, firing their pistols. This daring exploit was followed in six weeks by the robbery of the bank at St. Genevieve. Nobody was killed here, but \$4,000 was poured into the capacious mouth of the bandits' saddle-bags. They were followed northwest to the Missouri, where all trace of them was lost.

AS TRAIN ROBBERS.

The next heard of them was in June of 1873. The James boys were recognized around home in Clay county, and shortly after their appearance a train on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad was wrecked and the express messenger was robbed of \$6,000. Then came the robbery of an Iron Mountain Railroad train at Gad's Hill. They took possession of the station, switched the train on a side track and, at their leisure, Clell Miller, Jesse and Frank James and Jim and Cole Younger stripped the passengers of their surplus wealth and robbed the express car of \$11,500. Detectives were sent to hunt them out, but their traps were never entered by the outlaws and the detectives generally lost their lives. The Youngers were ferreted out by Captain Tull, of the Chicago police, and James Wright and Deputy Sheriff McDaniels, of Osceola. Their business was suspected, however, and in a fight McDaniels and John Younger were killed and Captain Tull subsequently died. Then the gang disappeared until 1874, when they robbed a train on the Kansas Pacific, near Muncie, and obtained \$24,000 and disappeared in the woods. Clell Miller and Hinds were arrested for the Muncie robbery, Miller in Carroll county and Hinds at Independence, the county seat of Jackson county, ten miles from Kansas City. Miller, after his arrest, captured the sheriff in charge and holding him in front of his body bade him send his deputies away, and with a revolver muzzle in his ear the officer complied, and the bold highwayman escaped; but his end was not many years distant. Hinds escaped in about the same manner from the officers of Independence and has never been heard from.

IN PURSUIT OF THE BANDITS.

So hot was the pursuit after the Muncie robbery that the outlaws separated and the James boys went to Texas. In September, 1875, Frank joined Cole Younger, Thompson McDaniels and a man known as Keen, alias Hinds, and robbed a bank at Huntington, West Virginia. In less than two hours a posse of over one hundred men started in pursuit. In the mountains, nearly 100 miles from Huntington, a fight took place between the officers and fleeing robbers. Thompson McDaniels was killed and Keen, alias Hinds, captured, but, as usual, Cole Younger and Frank James escaped. Keen was sentenced to fourteen years in the penitentiary and is now serving his time. He has never told his true name. Frank James joined Jesse in Texas and the band was increased by the addition of several outlaws from the Indian Territory. In July, 1876, their plans were completed and the east-bound passenger train on the Missouri Pacific Railroad was robbed at a point about twenty miles east of Sedalia, called Otterville. The train was stopped by obstructions and the outlaws captured \$15,000 in the safe in the express car. Hobbs Henry, one of the robbers, was captured and confessed, and of all concerned only the James boys escaped. Three of their companions were killed.

FIGHTING IN THE STREETS.

A trip was next planned to Northfield, Minnesota. Bill Chadwell, a horse thief, joined the band, which included Cole, Jim and Bob Younger, Jesse and Frank James, Clell Miller, Charley Pitts and Chadwell. This was in September, 1876. On the afternoon of the 7th the desperadoes dashed into town, shooting their revolvers and halting in front of the Northfield Bank. While Frank and Jesse James and Bob Younger entered the other five remained outside to guard against attack. J. L. Hayward, the cashier, and two clerks were in the institution at the time. For refusing to open the time lock Jesse James sent a ball into Hayward's brain. Meantime the citizens on the street realized what was going on and opened fire on the robbers. Chadwell was shot from his horse by a man from the court house window, just opposite the bank, and in a few seconds Clell Miller, who had escaped dozens of times in Missouri, was also killed. By this time the firing became general and Jesse James was in the tightest place of his life. Jim Younger had a bullet in his mouth, and Frank James one through his left leg, but the entire six succeeded in mounting their horses and escaping from the town. Then began a flight and pursuit, which for persistence and endurance is almost without a parallel. The robbers were in a strange and unknown country, followed by fifty armed men. When it was seen that the chase was to be to the death a proposition was made to separate. Before this time Jesse James wanted Bob Younger killed, as the blood from his wound made a plain trail, but Cole Younger would not allow it, and said he would kill the first man who dared lay a finger on his wounded brother. Jesse and Frank James went off in a northerly direction, while the three Youngers and Charley Pitts remained in a body. As on all previous occasions, luck followed the James boys, for, while they escaped after being pur-

sued nearly 500 miles, the Youngers were shot down and captured, and Pitts was killed. The three former were terribly wounded before they would surrender, and are now serving life sentences in the Minnesota penitentiary at Stillwater. Jesse and Frank James, after being chased for weeks, succeeded in reaching Texas, and at Waco, Frank had a surgical operation performed upon his leg in consequence of the bullet he received at Northfield.

AT IT AGAIN.

In the fall of 1879 the boys returned to their old haunts in Clay county and very soon had about them a new gang ready to follow wherever a rich haul was in sight. Among the recruits were Ed Miller, brother of Clell, killed at Northfield; Jim Cummings, a noted Clay county horse-thief; Tacker Basabam, Ed Ryan and Dick Little. The last three were young farmer's sons, who, led on by the persuasive power of Jesse James, went blindly into the work. They robbed a train on the evening of October 8 at Glendale, on the Chicago and Alton, and secured \$25,000 or \$30,000. The gang scattered at once. James Liggett, at that time marshal of Jackson county, at once organized a strong party to capture the robbers, if possible, and George Shepherd, a former friend of Jesse James, was taken into their confidence. Shepherd was to betray Jesse. A plan was laid to rob the bank at Galena, Mo. Shepherd came back and reported that he had killed Jesse, but it was only a put-up job to secure the \$5,000 reward. Then followed the recent robberies at Winston and Blue Cut, which are still fresh in the public mind. After the Blue Cut robbery Jesse hid at his mother's house in Kearney. He had shot himself during the flight and was badly wounded. Little, in a fuse, killed Woo Hite, Jesse's best friend, and had to leave the gang. He then gave himself up and has confessed all about the recent robberies. Jesse and Ed Miller, he says, had a quarrel about the spoils after the Blue Cut robbery and Miller was shot by Jesse. The death of Jesse will about put an end to the outlaws. There is no other leader so daring.

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